

## **Current status EM – Lithuania**

### *Dinas Vaitkaitis*

Financing of hospitals was cut 11% due to economical situation last year in the health system of Lithuania. The same decreased financing was left for the year 2010 and the same level of financing is expected for the next fiscal year. It keeps health care system working (maintain all necessary procedures from medical site, no strikes from employees site), but stops investment programs, especially for new establishments.

However, restructuring of health care system is going slowly ahead, closing small hospitals, closing non-effective departments in some hospitals (like obstetrics or surgical departments in rural hospitals). It produces need for improvement of emergency care in regional hospitals and more efficient pre-hospital emergency care, overtaking patients load. We expect this process will create a bigger “market-need” for emergency medicine, which now is notable as increased demand for postgraduate training courses, like ATLS, PhTLS, ALS/ACLS, ALSG, PALS and others.

Residency program (5 years), prepared and approved two years ago, is on stand-by position. Non-official decision is made to retreat from five-years specialty to 2-3 years supra-specialty recognition.